

# Source Water Assessment and Protection Update

Information for DHS staff and LPA counties on the California Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program (DWSAP)

Issue 1

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## WHAT'S THIS?

This is the first edition of an occasional update for DHS staff and LPA counties on the status of the Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) program.

It will be published as often as there is sufficient content. Please contact Leah Walker at (707) 576-2295 if you have something that you would like to include in the next update. ♦

## Mapping Tool Training Delayed

DHS, with the assistance of UC Davis Information Center for the Environment (UCD-ICE), is developing a mapping tool that will allow staff to prepare source water assessment maps. Training on this tool was originally scheduled for March-April 2000. However, there has been a change in priorities because of recent legislation regarding MTBE (see related article Page 3). The DWSAP mapping tool is not expected to be ready before June 2000. Training will not be scheduled until the tool is ready.

Based upon our experiences with the GPS training last December, we have decided that the training will be offered only in Davis. The training will be offered three times – one session for DHS staff, and two sessions for LPA counties. As before, each DHS district and LPA county will be able to send one person to the training.

**Version 1** of the mapping tool will be available soon to assist DHS districts and LPAs in obtaining source locations for MTBE legislation. With Version 1 you will be able to display a USGS quad map, click on the well site, get a latitude and longitude and print a simple map. However, you will not be able to do the delineation. **You will need an Internet connection and Internet Explorer to use Version 1.** There will be no training for Version 1. ♦

## GPS Status

GPS activities, though not directly part of DWSAP, are the top priority for work by UCD-ICE. The data dictionary software being developed is almost complete. The first test of the software is scheduled to take place in April. We have purchased copies of Pathfinder Office software to install at each DHS field office site and at LPA counties that will borrow a GPS unit from DHS.

LPA counties were recently e-mailed a list of their sources that are in the PICME database. This will be the initial list of sources in each LPA's data dictionary. We understand that these lists are not complete or up to date, but they should be enough for LPA counties to begin getting GPS readings. A regular process to update the data dictionary will be developed.

According to responses to a recent inquiry by DHS, the following counties will provide their own GPS units:

Amador	El Dorado
Los Angeles	Madera
Merced	Napa
Nevada	Riverside
Sacramento	San Bernardino
San Diego	San Joaquin
Santa Barbara	Santa Cruz
Stanislaus	Tulare
Tuolumne	

DHS staff and LPA counties interested in more information about GPS units and source locations are referred to the GPS Question and Answer sheet dated January 24, 2000. ♦

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Source Water Protection Loan Program
- 3 Source Locations for MTBE



## DWSAP E-forms

The DWSAP electronic forms ("TurboSWAP") are still in development. The completion of this software is second in priority to the GPS data dictionary for work by UCD-ICE.

Elements of the data dictionary software, such as the list of sources, will also be used for the DWSAP e-forms, so some progress is being made. A "beta" version of the program should be released within the next month. ❖

## DWSAP Workplans

Thank you to all DHS districts and LPA counties for submitting DWSAP workplans. The plans have been compiled into a statewide workplan.

Progress on the workplans will be reviewed every six months. For LPA counties, the workplans will be reviewed during the semi-annual LPA review.

The statewide workplan is summarized below:

# Sources	1/1/00 to 6/30/00	7/1/00 to 6/30/01	7/1/01 to 6/30/02	7/1/02 to 4/30/03
16,127	1,414	4,842	5,864	4,007
	9%	30%	36%	25%

Number of Sources to be assessed by water systems = 1,962 (12%) ❖

## DWSAP Data Advisory Committee (DAC)

DHS has established an informal advisory committee that is helping us to develop data tools for the DWSAP program. The DAC meets every couple of months with representatives of DHS (Leah Walker, Cliff Bowen, Paul Collins, and other staff people at various times) and UC Davis- ICE.

The intent of the DAC is to promote the sharing of electronic data on contaminant activities (PCAs) and water sources (see related article on Page 3). The DAC includes state and local government agencies, water systems and US EPA. Membership is open. Participating agencies have included the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Department of Water Resources (DWR), State Fire Marshal (hazardous material pipeline routes), State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, water agencies and counties.

The meetings are held at UC Davis (a conference call line is also available) and meeting notices are sent via e-mail. If you are interested in participating in the DAC send an e-mail message to Leah Walker at [lwalker2@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:lwalker2@dhs.ca.gov). The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2000 from 10:00 AM to noon. ❖

## Source Water Protection Loan Program

DHS has initiated a low-interest loan program for drinking water source protection projects. For FY 1999, 5% of the DWSRF grant was set aside for source water protection loans, or approximately \$4 million. Pre-applications for 53 eligible projects were received, for a total of \$23.4 million. The maximum loan for any project is \$2 million. This year, the two highest-ranking projects will be invited to apply for funding.

Project # 1

**South San Joaquin Irrigation District**

Canal/reservoir protection project  
\$2 million

Project # 2

**San Francisco PUC**

Alameda Creek watershed land and easement purchase  
\$2 million

Because of the enthusiastic response to the Source Water Protection Loan program, the DWSAP committee and the SRF committee are considering increasing the amount of funding in the next fiscal year.

Preapplications for the next year will go out in August 2000 and will be due back to DHS district offices by October 2000. Water systems that have projects on the current priority list will not need to reapply unless they wish to modify their project or provide additional information that may change their ranking. Preapplications that were received too late for the previous priority list will automatically be included in the priority list for next year. ❖



## Recent Accomplishments

- The DHS Santa Barbara district has recorded most of their Well Data Sheets in Excel format, and has centralized them on one computer. The district has a student assistant working on this project, who is also doing the radius calculations on the wells and will be doing the GPS and full assessments this summer, when he will be working full time. For more information contact Kurt Souza ([ksouza1@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:ksouza1@dhs.ca.gov)) or Mike Ali ([hali@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:hali@dhs.ca.gov)) at 805-566-1326.
- The DHS San Diego district worked with the City of Riverside to complete assessments for 12 wells using GIS. The City recently asked DHS staff to make a presentation about source water assessment and protection to the Riverside County Planning Commission. For more information contact Toby Roy ([troy@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:troy@dhs.ca.gov)) or Steve Williams ([swillia7@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:swillia7@dhs.ca.gov)) at 619-525-4159.
- Tulare County has begun sending information to water systems to assist in DWSAP assessments. The County prepares a preliminary map with fixed radius protection zones, and sends it to the water system with the PCA checklist. The County will also be preparing DWSAP maps using a GIS system that includes information from County records. For more information contact: Billy Harmon at 559-733-6441 ❖

## Source Locations for MTBE Legislation

Legislation (SB 989) was passed last year that requires the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to notify owners of single wall underground storage tanks located within 1000 feet of a public drinking water well. The notification must occur by November 1, 2000, and the tank owner must then install enhanced leak detection or monitoring.

The Board is working on identifying the location of underground storage tanks by developing a Geographic Information System data layer.

DHS is responsible for providing locations of public drinking water wells for compliance with this legislation. DHS intends to provide the location data to the Board in June 2000 to allow time to integrate the information.

Currently, the DHS PICME database has some locational information for wells (latitude and longitude). However, the data is incomplete and lacks essential information on the method and accuracy of the source location.

Each DHS district and LPA will provide source locations for each source in June 2000. The Source Location Form is an MS Access application that is available on the DHS website at:

[http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/technical/dwp/source\\_info/source\\_index.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/technical/dwp/source_info/source_index.htm)

For this short-term effort, the accuracy of the data is not as important as having complete information. Further direction will be forthcoming from DHS regarding this topic. ❖

## Contaminating Activities Information

DHS is requesting assistance in developing an inventory of data in electronic format (i.e., electronic databases with locational information or GIS layers) that can be used for source water assessments.

To that end, DHS sent a letter to the State Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards requesting information. A copy was sent to county Environmental Health Departments.

We would like to identify data that has already been compiled in maps, databases, ARC-INFO coverages, or other lists. In particular, DHS would like to identify electronic data for the following types of possible contaminating activities:

- NPDES and WDR permitted facilities and discharge points
- Known contamination sites – spills, leaks and other releases
- Known contaminant plumes
- Storm water discharge points and detention facilities
- Above ground chemical and fuel storage tanks
- Underground storage tanks
- Timber harvest activities
- Landfills and dump sites – active, historic, and illegal
- Chemical and petroleum pipelines
- Concentrated animal feeding operations
- Mines – active and historic
- Agricultural irrigation and drainage
- Oil, gas, and geothermal wells
- Areas served by septic systems

If your agency has information that may be useful please send an e-mail to Leah Walker at [lwalker2@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:lwalker2@dhs.ca.gov). In your note, please describe the type of data and the format, and include a contact name and phone number. ❖



## Completed Assessments

To date, approximately 122 sources have been assessed, according to information reported to Leah Walker. A list of completed assessments is shown on the DHS website at:

[http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/dwsap/DWSAP\\_assessments.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/dwsap/DWSAP_assessments.htm).

If you have completed assessments that you have not reported, or if your completed assessments are not shown on the list, send an e-mail to Leah Walker at [lwalker2@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:lwalker2@dhs.ca.gov) with the information.

In the future, our database will be updated automatically with completed assessment information when you use the DWSAP e-forms. This information will be reported to US EPA on a regular basis, and will be available for DHS districts and LPAs to review. ❖



## LPA DWSAP Contract Payments

As several LPAs may have noticed, DHS is experiencing difficulties in processing payments for DWSAP invoices. This is due to accounting problems and is expected to be resolved soon. We apologize for any difficulties this may cause your agency.

## The DWSAP Website

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/dwsap/DWSAPindex.htm>

The website is a useful place to find information about the DWSAP program. The site is regularly updated with news, tips, and forms. Recent additions include:

- Well Data Sheet and Instructions
- DWSAP document in .pdf format
- Updated list of completed assessments

*Check the site regularly. Why not put it on your list of "Favorites"? ❖*

## LPA procedures for Revising DWSAP Budget

As LPAs begin doing assessments, they are finding that the budgets within the DWSAP contracts do not fit well with their proposed workplan. This is understandable, considering that the budgets were developed a year ago. Several LPAs have asked about revising their DWSAP budgets. The process to revise the budget for one or more fiscal years is fairly simple. These are most easily accomplished via e-mail.

1. Contact Angela Duromola ([aduromol@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:aduromol@dhs.ca.gov)) and ask to get a copy of your budget(s) in MS Excel or MS Word format.
2. Make the requested changes to the budget(s) and e-mail them back to Angela Duromola. Angela will forward the requested changes to Leah Walker and the DHS district office, if necessary, for approval.

The changes can be made without contract amendment if the proposed change is (1) within a fiscal year and a budget line item (i.e., Personal Services, Operating Expenses or equipment) or (2) is less than 10% of the budget for the fiscal year. These types of changes can generally be executed within 14 days.

A contract amendment is required if the proposed change is between fiscal years, or if a line item shift of over 10% (or \$25,000) is requested. The contract amendment should take approximately 6 to 8 weeks to execute.

LPAs cannot submit invoices based on the revised budgets until the changes are approved.

## Acronyms used in this Newsletter

**DHS** – California Department of Health Services, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management

**LPA** – Local Primacy Agency (a county that has been delegated primacy for the drinking water regulatory program for small water systems)

**GPS** – Global Positioning System

**GIS** – Geographic Information System

**State Board** – State Water Resources Control Board

**Regional Board** – Regional Water Quality Control Board

**UCD-ICE** – University of California, Davis Information Center for the Environment (DHS contractor for GIS, GPS and other data tools).

